

WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

AN ORDINARY meeting of Whittingham Parish Council took place on **9th April 2018** at 7.15pm at **Whittingham Sports & Social Club**.

Members:

Cllr Alan Lewis - Chairman
Cllr Dave Hall
Cllr Harry Landless
Cllr Alex Meades
Cllr Margaret Rigby

Members of the public

City Councillor Lona Smith
Mr M Taylor – Preston City Council Parks
Mrs Davies
PC Banks
Mrs Julie Buttle – Parish Clerk.

APOLOGIES – Cllr Stan Hunter, Cllr Bernard Huggon,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 12th March 2018.

MIN 163 it was RESOLVED that the Council Minutes be signed as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

MIN 164 There were no declarations of interests.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 165 It was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for public participation.

Mr. Taylor from the City Council explained that all Parishes had been asked to pay 18% of the City Council parish maintenance costs, due to a political decision in respect of the City Council budget. He had been informed that the Parish Council had expressed an interest in owning the land, but explained that they would only consider a long term lease. Some of the land is already leased to the tennis club and that land would not be included in any transfer.

Currently there are no tree preservation orders on the land because the City Council manage and maintain the trees but if the land was leased, that situation may change as the leaseholders would be responsible for any maintenance.

Current maintenance costs include grass and hedge maintenance, a weekly check of the play area for signs of vandalism, wear and tear and the collection and removal of litter.

If the Parish Council leased the land, improvements could be made but only with the prior consent of the Council. Currently the land is a registered Village Green and any alterations would need to comply with that legislation too. The Village Green does not meet the requirements of a Football Association pitch as the FA prefers sites with several pitches and parking facilities. It was noted that the Village Festival is held there in the summer and if the Parish Council leased the land, it would be responsible for ensuring that food, drink and entertainment licenses were in place. It was also confirmed that if Travellers settled on the land, the City Council would help with enforcement, but the Parish Council would be liable for all costs including any cleansing or reinstatement of the land.

As a leaseholder the Parish Council would be 100% liable for all the grounds maintenance and would be required to carry out weekly and annual inspections of the play equipment as well as carry out any repairs. The equipment has been upgraded recently and whilst there is an inventory for the new equipment, there could be a few surfacing issues in the future.

The Parish Council would also need to update its insurance policy and would be liable for any claims or damages in respect of poor upkeep. The City Council would help in the initial stages and would provide a service level agreement for the continued upkeep. Currently this is being arranged for a site in Broughton and any transfer to Whittingham would be after their lease has been drawn up and any snags ironed out. In response a query it was stated that the City Council may still empty the bins but only if they are on the main highway.

Mr. Taylor stated that he was aware that the Parish Council had requested a bin on Halfpenny Lane and explained that the City Council was not in a position to action this until they have completed an audit and assessment of their existing supply.

The Chairman advised that a sign had recently been erected saying welcome to Grimsargh play area and he requested that this is removed. He also queried the likelihood of the lease being approved. Mr Taylor stated that each site would be considered on an individual basis, but he was not aware of any strong opposition to lease the land to the Parish Council.

The Clerk stated that as the City Council had changed its stance and was now maintaining land on behalf of the County Council, would the City Council change its stance in relation to asking parishes to contribute towards maintenance in their areas? Mr Taylor replied that would be a political decision as arrangements for 2019/20 had not been discussed.

In light of the responsibilities for monitoring and maintaining the play area, the Clerk asked if the Parish Council could enhance the grounds maintenance without including the play area. Mr Taylor stated he will look into this request.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the City Council would not maintain the open space and play areas in the new developments. Instead, residents will pay a land management fee to the developer, who will contract a land manager to carry out any work. Mr Taylor was thanked for his attendance and explanation of the situation.

Cllr Smith stated that residents in the rural area get very little in return for very high Council Tax and it was wrong to ask residents to pay even more by passing part of the cost on to the Parish Council. She informed Members that the 101 homes at Whittingham Lane near Pudding Pie Nook Lane had been approved due to the inability of the City Council to demonstrate a 5 year housing supply and with regard to the lights that had been erected at the fishing lake on Halfpenny Lane, Planning were unable to take enforcement action as there is no breach of planning consent; Environmental Health do not believe there is a disturbance to immediate residents and the Environment Agency do not feel the lights will impact on the wildlife – so despite everyone's best efforts, nothing can be done.

The trees at the Alston Arms were removed illegally and enforcement action will be taken to ensure new ones are planted.

Cllr Rigby stated that the tree near the telephone box was leaning and asked who it should be reported to do. It was confirmed it would be the landowner as it is on private land.

PC Banks stated that after several years at Preston, he was moving to Garstang division. A start date has not been confirmed but the move is likely to go ahead in June. Discussions are taking place with regard to a replacement. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked PC Banks for his assistance over the years.

Cllr Hall asked if the policing of Whittingham would be linked to Longridge and was given assurances that this would not happen as Longridge came under Blackburn, not Preston.

The Chairman informed Members that signs had been erected around the Holme Fell site stating that the footpaths were not to be used as they were being re-routed. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had not been notified and the 2 planning applications relating to the footpaths had not been determined. The current situation would be checked.

There being no other business, it was RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened.

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

a) Goosnargh Village Green

Bearing in mind the cost for the play inspections and maintenance at Cumeragh Village, Members expressed concern about incurring further costs if the Parish Council did not own the land. **MIN 166** it was RESOLVED that the matter would be reviewed if and when the new maintenance contributions are announced for 2019/20.

b) Cumeragh Village Green / Beacon Drive

Members noted that Envirocare are due to commence year 2 of the grounds maintenance contract for Cumeragh Village Green and Beacon Drive but, like last year, the start may be delayed due to extremely wet ground conditions.

MIN 167 If the grass becomes too long and results in complaints about grass collection, Members RESOLVED to approve a 'collection cut' if required. It was noted that this can be funded from the balance left over from last year's contract.

c) Cumeragh Play Area

Members NOTED that the willow tunnel has been pruned and the Annual Inspection will take place at the beginning of May. The information sign has been erected and Barton Grange have confirmed they will continue to undertake the weekly inspection and litter pick.

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE OPEN SPACE SURVEY

MIN 168 Members supplied details of open spaces and playing pitches within the Parish and RESOLVED that the Clerk returns the survey.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Note - Members are advised prior to the meeting that applications can be viewed at www.preston.gov.uk

06/2018/0241 Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 06/2017/0583 for 1no. dwelling at Carna, 795 Whittingham Lane.

Members were informed that the existing bungalow will be replaced with a 2 storey dwelling in keeping with neighbouring properties. The new dwelling will be set back from the road in the location of the existing bungalow.

Min 169 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2018/0250 Reserved matters application (namely appearance, landscaping and scale) pursuant to 06/2016/1214 for 6no. dwellings on land north of Inglewhite Road.

Members noted that the outline application has already been approved despite being in the open countryside. Members expressed concern that the developer has already felled trees on the site which is contrary to the outline conditions.

MIN 170 RESOLVED to object to the application as the site is in a prominent position and in view of the location, Members feel that details such as drainage, parking of construction workers vehicles and off site highway works should be submitted for consideration now rather than being addressed under the discharge of conditions which are not part of the statutory consultation.

06/2018/0256 Outline planning application for 7no. dwellings (all matters reserved) on land to the north of Inglewhite Road, Longridge.

Members noted that this is a resubmission of application 06/2018/0002 which has been withdrawn as the site boundary was incorrect with application 06/2018/0256 resulting in a smaller garden area.

MIN 171 Members RESOLVED to resubmit the original objections adding concerns that the Planning Statement states that the scheme can be *readily served by existing utility supplies* but there are no supplies in the area.

06/2018/0273 Installation of an underground foul ground water pipe including air valve chamber and washout chamber at Former, Whittingham Hospital, Whittingham Lane.

Min 172 Members RESOLVED to leave to planning.

06/2018/0336 and **06/2018/0337** for agricultural buildings at Belmont Farm, Inglewhite Road. Members were informed that the buildings are required to expand the pig farm enterprise. The buildings will be a steel frame portal with vented sheets and concrete shuttered walls and will be located in close proximity to an approved farm building.

Concerns were expressed that it was an over intensification of the site and in view of the approved housing developments in the area, it could lead to further complaints about smells and pollution. A counter view was expressed that the buildings were unobtrusive and there is a need to support a rural farming business in a rural area.

MIN173 Following a vote in which one member opposed the scheme and one member abstained, Members RESOLVED to support the application but requested that advice be sought from environmental health to mitigate the possibility of any future complaints.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017 / 2018

The Chairman verified that the accounts and bank statements had been reconciled.

2017 / 2018 ANNUAL RETURN

The Clerk presented the end of year financial report which includes the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. (AGAR)

MIN 174 Members reflected on the effectiveness of the system of internal control (presented to the March meeting) and RESOLVED to complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement.

MIN 175 Members considered the end of year financial report and RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements which were signed and dated by the Chairman.

2017/2018 CIL END OF YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

At the March meeting, Members received a financial report and update on current CIL items which will be carried forward to the 2018/19 business plan.

MIN 176 Members RESOLVED to approve the 2017/18 End of Year CIL Finance Report.

OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

MIN 177 Members RESOLVED to renew the membership to the Open Spaces Society.

RENEWAL OF LALC MEMBERSHIP

MIN 178 Members RESOLVED to remain members of the LALC but requested that the Clerk monitor the value of the training, advice and information on local and national policies.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 179 Members RESOLVED to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHEQUE
Jan – Mar play inspections	Barton Grange	£390.00	CQ 1313
Quarterly Exp Jan - March	J Buttle	£47.42	CQ 1314
Play Area usage sign	Lancs County Council	£211.69	CQ 1315
LALC	LALC	£324.62	CQ 1316
Open spaces membership	Open Spaces Society	£45	CQ 1317
Clerk Salary April 2018	J Buttle	£417.55	CQ 1318
Tax / National Insurance	HMRC	£104.20	CQ 1319
LALC Spring Conference	LALC	£17.50	CQ 1320
E-ON Electric	E-On	£24.22	CQ 1321

NEWSLETTER

MIN 180 Members considered the draft of the Newsletter and RESOLVED to add an article on how to report fly tipping. Members were requested to comment on the final version before Monday 23rd April so that it can be printed and issued before the Clerk's holiday.

LALC SPRING CONFERENCE

MIN 181 Members RESOLVED that the Clerk attend the LALC Spring conference with the cost to be shared equally by Whittingham and Woodplumpton parishes.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members NOTED that there will be a defibrillator training session in the Village Hall on Friday 13th April at 7.30pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Council Meeting on **Monday 14th May 2018** which takes place after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Members requested that the meeting begin at **6.30pm** and the Clerk was asked to check the availability of the room. Invitations have been sent to the community groups receiving grants.